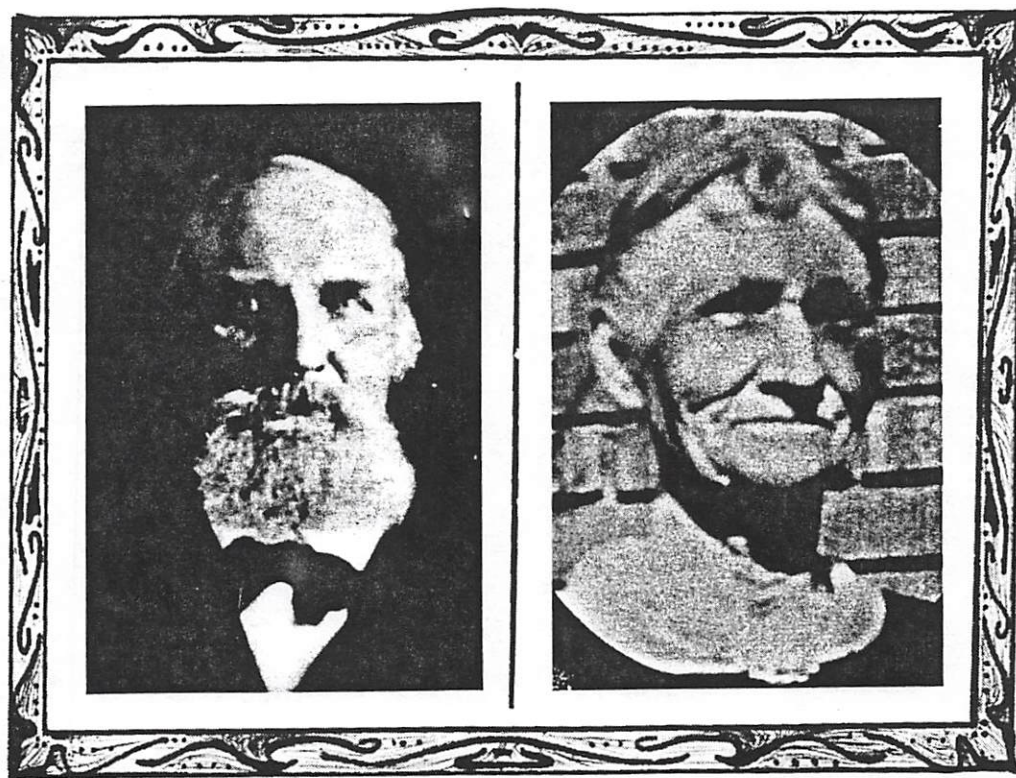


WILLIAM McDONALD — ELIZABETH ANN SHIRTS



Elizabeth Ann Shirts was born Feb. 15, 1848, in Bonnie Bottoms, Pottawattame County, Iowa, a daughter of Peter Shirts and Margaret Cameron. Two years later tiny Elizabeth with her parents, brothers and only sister, Sariah, who was ten years old departed for the journey to Utah.

The family had many difficulties on the way. The most tragic was the death of the mother. She was put to rest in an old box and buried on the banks of the Platte River. This left the baby Elizabeth in care of her sister, Sariah.

After their arrival the Shirts family remained in Salt Lake City several months. They were among volunteers who went to settle Iron County in 1851. There her sister met William McDonald. They were married and Elizabeth made her home with them, helping her sister care for her small children.

When the McDonalds moved to Springville they took Elizabeth with them and four years later she went on to Provo Valley with them. When Elizabeth was 17 years old she was told by her sister that she should marry William as

his second wife. They were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

William had homesteaded a large tract of land just north of Heber City and had built a large barn to protect the hay and cattle. A big stone house had been built south of the barn. He later built a home for Elizabeth north of it.

Elizabeth became the mother of twelve children, seven boys and five girls. Her oldest son, Hyrum, died at the age of 13. Margaret, the second daughter, married Daniel Lewis Griffith, a young man from the eastern states who had come west and was working in the Park City mines. To this union was born five children of whom the oldest daughter, Clara, died in infancy. When the other children, a boy and three girls, were one to six years old, both parents had died.

Elizabeth took these grandchildren into her home and raised them as her own. She spent hours sewing for them and as they grew up and married she gave them each a large wedding just as she had done for her own.

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She had many hobbies, among them making beautiful wedding cakes for anyone who asked her. She had the reputation of being the best cook in Wasatch County. Raising flowers and a vegetable garden were other delights. Every holiday or birthday the entire family met and enjoyed her delectable dinners.

She always had time to help the sick and the less fortunate. She was a strong, staunch, kindly woman who set a good example for her family

by attending Church & the she loved Relief Society meetings. Although Elizabeth had little formal schooling she learned by hard knocks and experience.

After the death of Sariah, William sold the farm and moved with Elizabeth to Provo, Utah. After William died in 1921 Elizabeth lived alone for 17 years taking care of herself and her home. She died Nov. 22, 1937, at the age of 89 years.